

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 AID-20

IGA-02 RSR-01 /157 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9736

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1855

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, SO, ET, XW

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON HORN WITH ITALIANS

FROM WITMAN

REF: ROME 2935

SUMMARY: ITALIAN ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN HORN CLOSELY RESEMBLES OURS. SOMALIS NOT INSISTENT ON PRESENT BORDER CRISIS DURING PEDINI VISIT. SOMALIS WOULD LIKE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US, WITH AID. ITALIANS PREFER U. S. RAISE SOMALI QUESTION DURING ANDREOTTI VISIT WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. AT EARLIEST OCCASION FOLLOWING PORCARI'S DELAYED ARRIVAL BRUSSELS, WITMAN HAD FULL EXCHANGE ON PROBLEMS OF HORN IN COURSE OF WHICH PORCARI PROVIDED DETAILED RUN- DOWN PEDINI VISIT TO SOMALIA.

2. IN MEANTIME ROME'S REPORT (REFTEL) RECEIVED COVERING SAME CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUND. MAIN POINTS THEREFORE NEED NOT BE REPEATED HERE, BUT PORCARI COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS ON CERTAIN DETAILS: (A)

PARAS 1, 2 AND 7: PORCARI BELIEVES IT NOT SO MUCH PEDINI VISIT ITSELF WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN ITALIAN/ SOMALI RELATIONS AS IT WAS THAT ALREADY- NOTED IMPROVEMENT MADE SUCH VISIT OPPORTUNE AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. (B) PARA 2: PEDINI DID NOT GO TO NORTHERN CITY OF HARGEISA, BUT (AFTER FIRST LODGING IN MOGADISCIO HOTEL) WAS INVITED BY SIAD TO STAY AT SIAD' S PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE, " VILLA HARGEISA." PEDINI DID VISIT CHISIMAIO WHERE HE TOURED U. S. - BUILT PORT AND SOVIET- BUILT CANNERY. (C) PARA 3: PORCARI CONFIRMED BORDER SITUATION NOT IN FOREFRONT OF SOMALI DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIANS AND NO REPEAT NO SPECIFIC INTERVENTION REQUESTED. (IN REFERENCE TO SIAD' S CONCERN THAT ANY INCREASE IN U. S. MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA MIGHT ENCOURAGE IEG TO KEEP BORDER HEATED UP, PORCARI WONDERED WHETHER POSSIBLE EVENTUAL RESUMPTION OF AID TO SOMALIA WOULD UPSET ETHIOPIANS.) (D) PARA 4: PORCARI UNDERSTOOD THAT SOMALIS WANTED DEFENSE GUARANTEES, WHICH SOVIETS REFUSED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOMALIS MAY NOW BE MAKING VIRTUE OF FACT THAT ALL SOVIETS WILLING OFFER WAS " FRIENDSHIP TREATY," WHICH SOMALIS DECLINED. PORCARI ALSO NOTED THAT IN GENERAL SOMALI MILITARY TEND TO BE MORE PRO- SOVIET THAN CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. (E) PARA 5: PORCARI CONFIRMED THAT RESUMPTION OF AID IS KEY TO IMPROVED U. S./ SOMALI RELATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT (EVEN IF LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGETARY OBSTACLES COULD BE OVERCOME,) LIMITED AMOUNT OF U. S. AID REALISTICALLY LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BY SOMALIS AS ADEQUATE. HE QUOTED SIAD AS UNCOMPREHENDING WHY U. S. COULD HAVE GOOD AID RELATIONS " WITHOUT PRE- CONDITIONS," WITH REVOLUTIONARY GUINEA BUT NOT WITH REVOLUTIONARY SOMALIA. (F) PARA 8: PORCARI DOUBTS ANDREOTTI WILL RAISE SOMALI QUESTION DURING WASHINGTON VISIT, BUT THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR U. S. SIDE TO TAKE INITIATIVE ON SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA OR POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCL.

3. PORCARI REGRETTED HE HAD HAD NO REPEAT NO OPPORTUNITY SEE AMB LOORAM DURING COURSE VISIT MOGADISCIO. HE ALSO FELT HOWEVER IT PROBABLY BETTER NOT GIVE IMPRESSION ITALIANS ACTING ON BEHALF U. S.

4. WITMAN REVIEWED WITH PORCARI POINTS CONTAINED AF/ E' S EXCELLENT BRIEFING PAPER, WITH WHICH LATTER IN GENERAL AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS REPORTING TELEGRAMS DURING MARCH AND CONFIDENTIAL

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APRIL FROM ADDIS AND MOGADISCIO INCLUDING COOTE TALKS IN WHICH HE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. ITALIANS HAVE HAD NO REPEAT NO RECENT CONTACTS WITH ETHIOPIANS AND WERE UNAWARE ETHIOPIANS HAD SPOKEN WITH RUSSIANS (ADDIS 3191, 4068.)

5. RE AF/ E' S SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS: (A) PORCARI VIEWS ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL SITUATION ALMOST PRECISELY AS WE DO, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESSION PROBLEM. (B) SOMALIA HAS IN PAST ASKED ITALY TO INTERCEDE WITH IEG, BUT NOT IN PRESENT CRISIS, (C)

PROCARI THINKS IDEA OF COORDINATED U. S. AND ITALIAN DEMARCHES TO SOVIETS MIGHT BE USEFUL AND WILL PURSUE QUESTION IN HIS MINISTRY FOLLOWING EASTER VACATIONS. (D) PORCARI ESTIMATES SOVIET INTENTIONS AS BEING TO KEEP JUST ENOUGH TENSION IN AREA TO BE " ARBITER" OF SITUATION WITHOUT PUSHING TENSION TO REAL HOSTILITIES. (HE HAS NO MORE INFORMATION ON SOVIET BASES THAN WE.) (E) PORCARI AGREES NEITHER SIDE HAS CAPABILITY FOR SUSTAINED MILITARY ACTION AGAINST OTHER. (HE HAS HEARD SAME REPORTS ABOUT T-54 S, MIG-21 S AND SA-2 S, BUT NO REPEAT NO CONFIRMATION.) (F) ITALY HAS NO REPEAT NO " CONFIRMED" REPORTS OF BORDER CROSSING IN EITHER DIRECTION. (SIAD DID NOT GIVE PEDINI A " STRAIGHT ANSWER" TO THIS QUESTION.) (G) ITALY HAS NO REPEAT NO " HARD FACTS" THAT SOMALI MILITARY OFFICERS ARE UNHAPPY WITH LARGE SOVIET PRESENCE IN COUNTRY. (H) PORCARI VIEWS RECENT RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AS SIGN OF SIAD' S STRENGTH AND BID GAIN SUPPORT IN COUNTRY. (HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT INTERPRETATION TO PLACE ON FACT THAT THREE IMPORTANT DETAINEES NOT REPEAT NOT RELEASED, EGAL, OMAR MOHALLIM AND ABSCHIR, ALL KNOWN TO BE PRO- AMERICAN.) (I) ITALIAN INFORMATION ON CROWN PRINCE' S HEALTH AND LIKLIHOOD OF SUCCESSION CORRESPONDS TO OURS, AND THEY HAVE NO ENLIGHTENED IDEAS HOW TRADITIONAL. ETHIOPIAN ELEMENTS LIKELY REACT.

6. COMMENT: ITALIANS DO NOT REPEAT NOT SEEM TO BE ALARMED ABOUT PRESENT CRISIS. THEY ARE ANXIOUS NEVERTHELESS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US ON SOMALI MATTERS. THEY ARE NOT WELL INFORMED ABOUT ETHIOPIA. WE SHOULD HAVE FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH THEM REGARDING POSSIBLE USEFULNESS OF SOME SORT OF COORDINATED DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS TO PERSUADE LATTER OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN REDUCING TENSIONS IN HORN. END COMMENT.
MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

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